

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: LE, EAID

SUBJ: LEBANON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE APPEAL

REF: (A) USUN 4208 (B) USUN 4055 (C) SALES-SEIFMAN TELECON
OF OCTOBER 20

1. SUMMARY: USUN SUGGESTS THAT US CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S APPEAL FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON SHOULD BE MADE TO THE UN SPECIAL ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED FOR THAT PURPOSE WITHOUT LIMITING ITS USE TO ONE SPECIFIC AGENCY. END SUMMARY.

2. FURTHER TO REF (A), (B) AND (C) USUN URGES THAT THE USG CONTRIBUTION TO UNSYG'S APPEAL TO LEBANON BE TREATED AS A FIRST TRANCHE TO THE UN SPECIAL ACCOUNT (SEE REF A) ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY RELIEF IN LEBANON, AND NOT AS A SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION TO A SINGLE UN AGENCY.

3. WE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY TO DO SO FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

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(A) AS THE FIRST MAJOR RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL, THE USG

CONTRIBUTION WILL SET THE PATTERN FOR OTHER DONOR COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS. IF WE ESTABLISH THE PRECEDENT OF EARMARKING OUR FUNDS TO PARTICULAR UN AGENCIES OTHER DONORS WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW SUIT.

(B) IF THE COORDINATOR IS TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, HE HAS TO BE MORE THAN A FUND RAISER OR SIMPLE CONDUIT OF CONTRIBUTIONS. HE HAS TO HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE DAY-TO-DAY JUDGMENTS IN TERMS OF WHICH ENTITY IN THE UN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF SYSTEM IS MOST CAPABLE OF PROVIDING EFFECTIVE SERVICES IN A GIVEN SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS OPERATIONAL LATITUDE BEARS ON HIS AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS ON PRIORITIES, STAFFING, AND PROVISION OF GOODS AND SERVICES TO LEBANON.

(C) IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT WE ARE FORMALLY RESPONDING TO A REQUEST FROM WILLIAM BUFFUM, THE UNSYG'S COORDINATOR FOR THE LEBANON EMERGENCY APPEAL, AND NOT TO A SPECIALIZED AGENCY REQUEST. THE CABLES REFERENCED WERE INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE UN SYSTEM HAD SUFFICIENT INFORMATION AND THE CAPABILITY TO CARRY OUT AN EFFECTIVE, RESPONSIVE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF PROGRAM IN LEBANON. (IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE CONSTRUED AS A REQUEST FOR A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR.) THE APPROACH WE RECOMMEND IS THE STRONG PREFERENCE OF BUFFUM, WHO, IN ANY CASE, HAS ASSURED US HE WOULD COORDINATE VERY CLOSELY WITH THE USG ON THE UTILIZATION OF THESE FUNDS.

4. GIVEN THE AFORESAID AND IN FURTHERANCE OF THE REQUEST EXPRESSED IN THE SALES-SEIFMAN TELECON (OCTOBER 20) WE WOULD SUGGEST LANGUAGE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES FOR THE AID GRANT:

QTE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HEREBY CONTRIBUTES X DOLLARS TO THE 'UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON' IN RESPONSE TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S APPEAL OF FEBRUARY 26, 1976. THE FUNDS PROVIDED SHOULD BE USED STRICTLY FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES BY THE AP-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPRIATE UNITED NATIONS EXECUTING AGENCIES WHICH INCLUDE UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP AND SUCH OTHER UN AGENCIES AS MAY BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE UN COORDINATOR AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. UNQTE.
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